AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Original) A method for securing access to a data medium said method comprising:

recording a unique identification number assigned to each medium in at least a portion of a data library; and

commanding at least one selected data transfer element in said library to only accept media having particular ones of said identification numbers.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said recording step further comprising:

clearing a previous list of allowed identification numbers for each data transfer element.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said recording step further comprises:

reading said identification numbers of said media.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said recording step further comprises:

listing said identification numbers of media in memory storage of said at least one selected data transfer elements that said at least one selected data transfer elements is to be allowed to access.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said recording step further comprises:

entering identification numbers of media said at least one selected data transfer elements is allowed to access in memory storage of said at least one selected data transfer elements.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

reading said identification number of said medium during transport of said medium from a medium storage element slot to one of said data transfer elements.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

reading said identification number of said medium using a data transfer element receiving said medium.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said commanding step further comprises:

checking memory storage associated with said at least one selected data transfer element for said identification number of said medium.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

ejecting a medium from a data transfer element in response to said identification number not being one of said particular ones of said identification numbers.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said identification number is encoded in a barcode, disposed on said medium.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said identification number resides in cartridge memory of said medium.

12.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said data library is partitioned into a plurality of partitions and said recording step comprises reading said identification numbers of said media in a particular partition; and

said commanding step further comprises restricting access of said at least one selected data transfer elements to said media that is in a same partition as said at least one selected data transfer elements.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said unique identification numbers are universally unique.

14.   (Original) A method for securing access to data media in a particular partition of a partitioned data library, said method comprising:

listing identification numbers of media that data transfer elements in said partition are allowed to access in memory storage of said data transfer elements in said partition;

reading an identification number of a selected medium;

checking said memory storage of a data transfer element receiving said selected medium for said identification number of said selected medium; and

accessing said selected medium in response to said identification number of said selected medium being present in said memory storage of said data transfer element receiving said selected medium.

15.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

ejecting said selected medium from said data transfer element receiving said selected medium in response to absence of said identification number of said selected medium from said memory storage of said data transfer element receiving said selected medium.

16.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

clearing a previous list of allowed identification numbers for each of said data transfer elements in said partition.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said reading step further comprises:

reading said identification number of said selected medium during transport of said selected medium from a medium storage slot to said data transfer element receiving said selected medium.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said reading step further comprises:

reading said identification number of said selected medium using said data transfer element receiving said selected medium.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said identification numbers are encoded in barcodes disposed on said media.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said identification numbers reside in cartridge memory of said media.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said unique identification numbers are universally unique.

22.   (Original) A partitioned data library comprising:

data storage media, each medium of said media having an identification number;

a plurality of storage element slots each of said slots adapted to store a medium of said data storage media, at least one set of at least one of said slots assigned to one partition of a plurality of library partitions; and

a plurality of data transfer elements that are adapted to receive said media and transfer data to and from said media, each of at least one set of at least one of said data transfer elements assigned to one of said library partitions, wherein access to said media by each of said data transfer elements is restricted to media having particular ones of said identification numbers.

23.   (Previously Amended) The library of claim 22 further comprising a library controller directing movement of said media to and from one of said set of slots to and from one of said sets of data transfer elements assigned to a same of said partitions.

24.   (Original) The library of claim 22 wherein a medium is ejected from one of said data transfer element in response to said identification number not being one of said particular ones of said identification numbers.

25.   (Original) The library of claim 22 wherein each of said data transfer elements comprise memory storage storing a list of media identification numbers that data transfer element is allowed to access.

26.   (Original) The library of claim 22 wherein said identification number is encoded in a barcode, disposed on said medium.

27.   (Original) The library of claim 22 wherein said identification number resides in cartridge memory of said medium.

28.   (Original) The library of claim 22 wherein said identification number of said medium is read during transport of said medium from one of said storage element slots to one of said data transfer elements.

29.   (Original) The library of claim 22 wherein said media identification numbers are read by said data transfer elements.

30.   (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein said unique identification numbers are universally unique.